ISSN 0704-3716

Canadian Translation of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences

No. 5312

The activity of fishing vessels, 13 m.o.l. and over, 1982

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Original title: Activiteten til fiskefartoyer 13 M.L.L. og over 1982

Ref: Fiskeridirektoratet Rapporter og meldinger 7(1983), 1983 (Foreword, table of contents, and introduction only)

Original language: Norwegian

Available from:
Canada Institute for Scientific and Technical Information
National Research Council
Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1A 0S2

1987

5 typescript pages

Secretary of State / Secrétariat d'État

90-02090/

MULTILINGUAL SERVICES DIVISION – DIVISION DES SERVICES MULTILINGUES

TRANSLATION BUREAU / BUREAU DES TRADUCTIONS

Client's No.–N° du client	Department – Ministère	Division/Branch – Division/Direction	City – Ville
	DFO	IPB	
Bureau No.–N° du bureau	**Language – Langue**	**Translator (Initials) – Traducteur (Initials)**	
2909968	Norwegian	144	17/2-87

The Activity of Fishing Vessels 13 m. o.l. and Over, 1982

(ACTIVITETEN TIL FISKEFARTOYER 13 M.L.L. OG OVER 1982)

Norwegian Directorate of Fisheries, Bergen
Reports and Notices, No. 7, 1983.

UNEDITED TRANSLATION
For information only
TRADUCTION NON REVISEE
Information seulement

FOREWORD

This report on the activity of fishing vessels of 13 m. o.l. and over is based on data gathered by local fisheries authorities (fisheries guidance councellors, fisheries boards) in connection with the larger study of these vessels carried out by the Budget Committee for the Fishing Industry in November 1982. p.2

The report was prepared by Thor B. Melhus. It has been presented to the Budget Committee.

Bergen, February, 1984

Hallstein Rasmussen

Gunnar Nybo

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Budget Committee for the Fishing Industry

Studies on the operation of fishing vessels of 13 m.o.l. and over.

1. Introduction

The Budget Committee for the Fishing Industry conducts every second year studies on the activity of all fishing vessels of 13 m.o.l. and over that are included in the "Registry of Norwegian Fishing Vessels". These studies have been carried out since 1968. From 1968 until, and including 1978, the study included vessels of 40 feet registered length and over, while from 1980 the lower size limit has been changed to 13 m.o.l. This means that data from and including 1980 are not comparable with data from earlier years.

The studies were from 1974 expanded to also include the period of operation each year (in months) of the vessels.

The special conditions in the fishing industry with highly seasonal fisheries, variable weather conditions, declining fish stocks and different forms of catching regulations often leads to changes in the operation of a vessel from year to year. It is therefore necessary at certain intervals to carry out a complete study of the operation of registered vessels. The objective of the study is to determine which vessels are operated the year round and which fisheries these vessels have participated in during the year. Year round operation is defined as 30 weeks or more fishing operations during the year. For certain groups that have been affected by extensive catch regulations and have therefore

had reduced opportunities to fish, vessels with shorter operation have also been included. For example, sprat (brisling) fishing vessels have a lower limit of 25 weeks operation while large purse seiners are classified as year round operated vessels if they have participated in at least 3 seasonal fisheries during the year, or that they have been in operation for 25 weeks in two seasonal fisheries. Fresh fish, salt fish, and factory trawlers are considered as being operated the whole year if they have at least caught their allocated cod quota.

The studies are carried out in close cooperation with the Advisory Service for the Fishing Industry ("Rettledningstjenesten") and the local fisheries boards and form the basis for the yearly cost and earnings studies carried out by the Budget Committee. The results of the studies have earlier been published for the years 1974-78 in the series "Directorate of Fisheries Reports and Notices" No. 1, 1980, while the results for 1980 are published in the same series No. 8, 1981.

The material generated in the studies is very extensive. It contains information on the most important gear used, fish species and fishing grounds and duration of fisheries in weeks for all registered vessels of 13 m.o.l. and over which have been fishing during the year. The quality of the collected material can vary considerably. This becomes obvious when comparing information from these studies and information in the forms received as part of the

cost and earnings studies. It is still felt that the results for 1982 are of high enough quality to be published.